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THE
CONFESSTION OF FAITH,
COVENANT,
STANDING RULES,
AND
MEMBERS,



Trinitarian Church,

IN NEW-BEDFORD. Mass.

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NEW-BEDFORD:
EVENING BULLETIN PRESS.
1846.

1851349

TRINITARIAN CHURCH, IN NEW-BEDFORD.

This Church was Organized Nov. 15, 1831.

PASTORS:

REV. JAMES AUSTIN ROBERTS,
Installed November 14, 1832.
Dismissed July 31, 1844.

REV. GEORGE LEWIS PRENTISS,
Ordained April 9, 1845.

DEACONS:

JOSHUA BARKER,
*FREDERICK READ,
§CHARLES COGGESHALL,
SIMEON BAILEY.
§GILBERT RICHMOND,
REUBEN NYE,

} Chosen June 21, 1833.
} Chosen Feb. 5, 1842.

*Dead. §Dismissed.

CONFESSIOH OF FAITH.

WE BELIEVE that there is one God, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost;⁽¹⁾ infinite in His perfections, and unchangeable in His purposes;⁽²⁾ the Creator, Preserver and Governor of the Universe, who made all things for Himself, and governs them all according to His holy Will;⁽³⁾ that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, given by inspiration of God, constitute our only perfect rule of faith and practice;⁽⁴⁾ that man was created holy but became sinful by transgressing the Divine Will;⁽⁵⁾ that all mankind in consequence of the fall, are by nature sinners, destitute of holiness, and justly exposed to the wrath of God;⁽⁶⁾ and that the Lord Jesus Christ has, by His sufferings and death, made an atonement for Sin, sufficient for the whole world, so that whosoever will, may come, and take the water of life freely.⁽⁷⁾

WE BELIEVE also, that regeneration by the special influences of the Holy Spirit is indispensable to salvation;⁽⁸⁾ that all who are thus born again of the Spirit, will be pardoned, justified, preserved in the way of holiness, and finally admitted to heaven, through the mercy of God in Jesus Christ;⁽⁹⁾ that none but those who give Scriptural

(1.) Deut. 6: 4. 1 Cor. 8: 6. Eph. 4: 6. 1 John 5: 7, 20. Matt. 28: 19. 2 Cor. 13: 14. John 1: 1—3, 14. Rom. 9: 5. Phil. 2: 6. Heb. 1: 2, 3, 8—12. 1 Tim. 3: 16. Rev. 4: 8.

(2.) Deut. 32: 4. Exod. 34: 6. 1 Tim. 1: 17.—6: 15, 16. Mal. 3: 6. Acts 15: 18. James 1: 17. 1 Pet. 1: 2. Rom. 8: 29, 30.

(3.) Neh. 9: 6. Ps. 83: 18. 104: 2—5. 8: 3. 19: 1, 2. Dan. 4: 34, 35. Acts 17: 28. Rev. 4: 11. Prov. 16: 4. Rom. 9: 15—24. 11: 36. Acts 2: 23, 1. Jer. 17: 10.

(4.) 2 Tim. 3: 15—17. 2 Pet. 1: 21. Ps. 19: 7—9. Isa. 8: 20. Acts 17: 11. Rev. 22: 18, 19.

(5.) Gen. 1: 27. Eccle. 7: 29. Rom. 5: 12.

(6.) Rom. 5: 12, 19. 3: 9—20. 2: 2, 3, 6, 8, 9. 6: 3. Gal. 3: 10. James 2: 10.

(7.) Matt. 26: 28. John 1: 29. 3: 6, 36. Isa. 53: 3—6. 55: 1, 3. Acts 4: 12. Rom. 3: 21—26. 1 John 2: 1, 2. Mark 16: 15, 16. Matt. 11: 23. Rev. 22: 17.

(8.) John 3: 3, 5—7. Rom. 8: 5—8. Eph. 2: 1, 6. Col. 2: 13. 2 Cor. 5: 17. John 1: 11—13. 5: 49. 6: 44—46, 65. Tit. 3: 5, 6. 2 Thes. 2: 13. 1 Pet. 1: 1.

(9.) Ps. 37: 23, 24. John 4: 14. 6: 35, 39. 10: 27—29. Rom. 8: 1, 29, 30. Mark 16: 16. 1 Cor. 1: 8. 10: 13. Phil. 1: 6. 2 Thes. 3: 3. Heb. 10: 38, 39. 6: 4—6, 9. Tit. 3: 5, 6. Eph. 2: 8—18. 1 John 4: 10. Rev. 1: 5, 6. 5: 9.

evidence of being penitent believers in Jesus, should be admitted to his visible church ;⁽¹⁰⁾ that the Ordinances of the New Testament are Baptism, and the Lcrd's Supper ;⁽¹¹⁾ that only believers in regular church standing can rightfully partake of the latter, and only these and their households can rightfully be admitted to the former ;⁽¹²⁾ that there will be at the end of time an universal resurrection and final judgment ;⁽¹³⁾ when the wicked will go away into everlasting punishment, and the righteous into life eternal.⁽¹⁴⁾

(10) Mark 16; 16, with Acts 2; 47. Ps. 50; 16. 1 Cor. 1; 2. 2 Cor. 1; 1.

(11) Matt. 23; 19. Acts 2; 41. Matt. 26; 26, 30. 1 Cor. 11; 23—26.

(12) Acts 2; 41—47. 1 Cor. 11; 27—9. Luke 18; 15, 16. Acts 2; 39.—16; 15, 33. 1 Cor. 1; 16. 7; 14.

(13) Dan. 12; 2. John 5; 28, 29. 1 Cor. 15; 13, 22. Eccl. 12; 14. Matt. 25; 31—33. Acts 17; 31. 10; 41. Rom. 14; 10, 12.

(14) Matt. 25; 46. 2 Thess. 1 9. Rev. 20; 12—4. 14; 10, 11. Mark 9; 47, 48.

THE COVENANT.

BELOVED IN THE LORD :

Humbly acknowledging and bewailing your past sins, in repentance towards God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, you do now, in the presence of God and these witnesses, solemnly *profess the Name of Christ* —and renouncing the world and the lusts thereof, do covenant to walk henceforth in newness of life, setting your affection on things Above, not on things on the earth.

In sole dependence upon Christ's Spirit and Promise, you also bind yourself to a faithful and persevering performance of the several duties you owe to God, to your neighbor and yourself; taking the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the Rule of your Faith and Practice, and aiming, in whatever you do, to do all to the glory of God.

You further promise to walk in the order and fellowship of this Church; to attend diligently upon the ministry of the Word and the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper; to submit to the discipline of Christ's House and, finally, to strive together with us for the faith and furtherance of the Gospel.

This you profess, covenant and engage, by the help of Divine Grace, steadfastly to perform.

(The ordinance of Baptism when requisite, is here administered)

I then, in the presence of God and these witnesses, pronounce you a member of this Branch of Christ's visible Church :

And We, the Brethren thereof, do receive you to our Christian Communion, regarding you as members of the same body, and welcoming you to a Fellowship in the same Grace and Hope of the Gospel with us, promising to watch over you in love, and commanding you unto Him, who is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His Glory with exceeding joy. AMEN.

GOVERNMENT AND STANDING RULES OF THIS CHURCH.

I. RIGHTS OF THE CHURCH.

This Church claims the right of self-government, and holds itself amenable to no other Ecclesiastical Body, except by its own consent, in accordance with the established usage of Congregational Churches.

II. OFFICERS.

The permanent Officers of this Church shall be a Pastor or Pastors, who shall be considered *ex-officio* a member of the Church, and Deacons, who shall be chosen by its Members, to perform the duties usually appertaining to their offices.

III. ADMISSION OF MEMBERS.

Every candidate for admission to this Church will be expected to give satisfactory evidence of personal piety, and assent to its faith and Covenant. Candidates, after having been examined by the Pastor and Deacons—who shall constitute a Standing Committee for this purpose—shall be publicly propounded, except in extraordinary cases, one week before being received to Communion, and the question of admission shall be taken by vote at a business meeting of the Church.

IV. CONNECTION WITH OTHER CHURCHES.

This Church will, in ordinary cases, abide by the decisions of mutual Councils, and extend to other Churches the usual reciprocities of fellowship, advice and transfer of Members. It will grant recommendations and dismissals according to Congregational usages; but expects its members, on removing from this town, either to transfer their Church relation within one year, or to assign the reasons of the further delay. And the relation of no member will be considered as dissolved until a certificate of his, or her, reception into the Body of some other Evan-

gelical Church shall have been received. This Church will admit members of other Churches, resident among us, to occasional communion, not longer than one year, without satisfactory reasons given for delaying to transfer their relation. It will also give recommendations and dismissions to any Evangelical Church, if requested in a proper spirit and manner; but all other ways of withdrawing from its Communion and care, will be deemed irregular and censurable.

V. SEASONS OF COMMUNION.

THE LORD'S SUPPER, preceded by a preparatory devotional service, shall be celebrated on the first Sabaths in January, March, May, July, September, and November.

VI. CENSURABLE OFFENCES.

Any immoral conduct, breach of covenant, repeated absence without cause from the Communion, or denial of any fundamental doctrines held by this Church, and professed by its members at the time of their admission.

VII. EVIDENCE.

The confession of the accused, the concurrence of two credible witnesses, or circumstantial evidence to the same amount, shall be requisite for conviction.

VIII. CENSURES.

These, consisting of admonition, suspension or excommunication, are in each case, to be administered by special vote of the Church, on the principle of making the reparation co-extensive with the injury done by the offender.

IX. PROCESS OF DISCIPLINE.

Offences strictly personal and private, should be immediately settled, according to the direction of our Saviour in the 18th chapter of Matthew; but for public and notorious offences, members may, without any previous admonition in private, be disciplined in such way, as the Church



shall think proper. In all cases however, the following rules are to be observed :

1. No individual shall bring an accusation before the Church, without having given the accused previous notice, and an opportunity to satisfy his brethren without any further steps of discipline.
2. No member shall, without his consent, be tried during the same meeting, at which charges are preferred against him.
3. The accused shall be furnished with a copy of the charges against him, and be entitled to a fair investigation and defence.
4. The accuser, others personally implicated, and any member who may have expressed a previous opinion on a case pending before the Church, shall be excluded from voting in such cases.
5. It will be deemed censurable for one member to report disciplinable offences of another, without having previously taken the steps prescribed by the Gospel, to reclaim him.

X. MEETINGS.

The regular meetings of the Church shall be :

1. A *meeting for religious exercises* on some evening of each week, except in special cases.
2. A *meeting for business* on the Monday evening following the first Sabbath in January. At this meeting a statement shall be made in writing, by the Pastor, or one of the Deacons, of the number of persons received into the Church during the year, by letter or profession; of the number dismissed, deceased or in any way disciplined; of the number baptized; of the whole number of the Church, male and female; of the names of members of the Church, who may have removed from the place; of the condition of the Sabbath School; of the state of religion during the year, and other objects of general religious interest: all of which statements shall be entered upon the records. There shall also be a Business Meeting on

the first Monday Evening of the months of April, July and October.

3. The Monthly Concert of Prayer for the Conversion of the World on the evening of the first Sunday or Monday of each month.

4. A Season of Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer on the last day of the year.

XI. RELIGIOUS CHARITIES.

This Church, regarding it as an essential part of Christian duty (besides "remembering the Poor" among themselves) to aid in the spread of the Gospel, both at home and abroad, have selected as more *especially* worthy of being the almoners of their religious charities the following Societies; on whose behalf collections shall be annually made in such manner as the Church may determine at their regular business meeting in January or April, viz :

The AMERICAN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The AMERICAN HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The AMERICAN TRACT SOCIETY.

The AMERICAN EDUCATION SOCIETY.

MEMBERS.

When Admitted.	Names	Admitted by	Remarks.
	Read Sarah		Dead.
	Read Sarah		Cut off.
	Remington Thomas		
	Sherman Charles P.		
	Thompson Benj. Jr.		Dismissed.
	Tobey Eliza		Do.
	Tobey Caroline		Do.
	Taylor Mary		Do.
	Taber Harriet		Cut off.
	Washburn Massena		
	Withby Samuel		Dismissed.
	Withby Avis		Do.
1832—Nov'r. 3	Carver Lemuel	Letter.	
	Carver —	Do.	
1833—Feb'y 1	Horton Mary Ann	Do.	Dismissed.
July 5	Smith Joseph	Do.	Dead.
	Sargent John	Do.	Dismissed.
Aug. 30	Fuller Lois	Profession.	
	Hall Hannah	Letter.	
Nov'r. 1.	Roberts Sarah G.	Do.	
" 29	Cowdry Hester	Profession.	
1834—Jan'y 31	Mayhew Elizabeth M.	Do.	Dead.
	Fisher —	Letter.	Dismissed.
May 23	Gibbs Hannah	Profession.	
	Coggeshall Eliza	Do.	Dismissed.
	Stevens Sarah	Do.	Do.
	Smith Ann	Do.	Do.
	Doane Ann	Do.	Dead.
	Manchester Mary	Do.	Dismissed.
	Lawton Polly	Do.	Do.
	Sisson Louisa	Do.	
Dec. 5	Tripp Benjamin	Do.	
	Tripp Lorinda	Do.	
	Mayhew Nathaniel	Do.	
	Feild Selina	Do.	Dismissed.
	Haskell Deborah	Do.	Do.
1835—Jan'y. 2	Saha Mary	Do.	Cut off.
	Doane James	Letter.	Dismissed.
	Barker Sarah	Do.	
May 1	Causling Martha	Do.	
July —	Nickerson Thomas	Do.	Dismissed.
1836—Feb'y. 5	Leonard Alfred	Profession.	
	Leonard Rebecca	Letter.	
	Wilcox Jane	Profession.	
	Pease James	Do.	Dismissed.
	Chadcock Meletiah	Letter.	
	Russell Maria	Do.	
Aug. 5	Hussey Maria	Profession.	
	Macomber Julia A.	Do.	
Dec. 2	Nicol Lilius	Do.	Dismissed.
1837—March 3	Hathaway Joseph	Letter.	

When Admitted.	Names.	Admitted by	Remarks.
	Hathaway Lucy	Do.	
Oct. 30.	Haskell Silvia	Do.	
Dec. 1.	Codrus —	Do.	Dismissed.
1838—April 5.	Read Alexander	Do.	
	Read Sarah	Do.	
June 1.	Almy Sylvia	Do.	Dismissed.
	Coggeshall Marsia	Profession.	
1839—Aug. 2.	Mayhew Isabella	Letter.	
Oct. 4.	Hunt Sarah	Do.	
1840—Jan'y. 31.	Smith Daniel	Profession.	
June 4.	Coleman Hezekiah	Do.	
	Coggeshall John H.	Do.	Dead.
	Hussey William F.	Do.	
	Hall Isaac D.	Do.	
	Marsh —	Letter.	
	Mayhew Julius S.	Profession.	
	Hathaway Susan	Letter.	
	Hathaway Susan	Profession.	
July 6.	Sampson Ruth	Letter.	
1841—Feby. 5.	Edwards William G.	Do.	
	Edwards Emeline	Do.	
	Waite —	Do.	Dismissed.
April 30.	Young Milwood	Do.	
	Young Margaret	Do.	
June 4.	Field Sarah	Profession.	
	Webb Harriet	Do.	
	Aiden Lydia H.	Do.	
	Richmond Gilbert	Letter.	Dismissed.
	Richmond Elizabeth	Do.	Do.
Aug. 1.	Richmond Nathaniel	Profession.	Do.
	Richmond Catharine	Do.	Do.
	Freeman Isaac	Letter.	
	Howland Harriet C.	Do.	
	Crocker Caroline	Do.	
	Nye Betsey M.	Profession.	
	Freeman Rachel L.	Do.	
	Ingraham Abby	Do.	
	McKenzie Daniel	Do.	
	Fussell Jonathan	Do.	
	Nye Reuben	Do.	
	Nye Ann Maria	Do.	
	Kendrick Franklin	Do.	
	Kendrick Emily W.	Do.	
	Richmond Mary A.	Do.	Dismissed.
	Bailey Rebecca	Do.	
	Adams Alfred	Do.	
	Gibbs Elizabeth E.	Do.	
Sept. 30.	Sampson Z. Silsby	Do.	
	Kendrick Caroline B.	Do.	
	Webb Hiram	Do.	
1842—Feby. 5.	Morton Hepzibeth	Letter.	Dead.

When Admitted.	Names.	Admitted by.	Remarks.
	Richmond Rebecca	Profession.	
	Bailey Mary	Do.	
	Coleman Hezekiah	Do.	
	Tompkins —	Do.	
	Roberts Samuel	Profession.	Dead.
	Clapp Jane	Letter.	Dismissed.
	Blacknier Nancy	Do.	
	Finkill Agnes	Do.	
	Hillman Mary	Profession.	
June 5.	Lumbard Amelia	Do.	
	Finkill John	Do.	
	Ricketson Cecelia	Do.	
	Bodfish Deborah	Do.	
1843—Aug. 3	Dyer Sarah	Letter.	Dismissed.
	Barker Anna	Do.	
	Norton John D.	Do.	Dismissed.
1844—March 28	Mentz Catharine B.	Do.	
1845—March 2	Mace Lorenzo A.	Do.	
July 31	Allen Robert	Do.	
Aug. 21	Patterson Anna	Do.	
Sept. 17	Shaw Mary L.	Do.	
Oct. 9	Waldo Mehitable	Do.	
" 16.	Parsons Caroline	Do.	
Nov'r. 19	Doane Harriet T.	Do.	
" 29	Crossman Elizabeth	Do.	
	Kasson John Adam	Do.	
Dec. 29	Prentiss Elizabeth	Do.	
1846—April 1.	Beauvais J. Arthur	Do.	
April 6.	Randall Martha	Do.	

NOTE.—On page 8, Art. 11, for "a member," read "members of the Church," &c.

15

MAY 75



N. MANCHESTER,
INDIANA

